

POWER OF OUR LANGUAGE

NO TONGUE HAS GAINED SUCH VIC

Prof. John M. Langston Finds Much
in It of Interest—Where Additions
Have Been Engrafted—Easy to Under-

Beauty.

National Literary Association met last night at Metropolitan A. M. E. Church, on M street, between Fifteenth and Sixteenth. There was large attendance. In the absence of President Cromwell, Vice President Jesse Lawson occupied the chair. The meeting was called to order at 8:15, and prayer was offered by Buckleford, after which, in a few well chosen remarks, Mr. Lawson introduced the Hon. John Mercer Langston, ex-United States minister to Hayti, who was announced to deliver an address on "The Power of the English Language."

Mr. Langston said: "Ladies and Gentlemen: You are responsible for my being

address you. In response to the invitation of your Secretary I am now in your presence, and I am here to tell you that the language you and I have to use, I need not dwell on the power, the beauty, the grandeur of that tongue. If there is to be any progress in the world it is to be made by the use of the language which is the one we now, perhaps unconsciously, use. I measure my words when I say this, for there is no way so marked as the way of language, and no language has so steadily been used in gaining constant victories day by day, as the language we call English.

Our language, like our nation, has the power and the faculty of gathering from all quarters, very far from the center, the best that is in the world, and making it a thing in the beginning, but additions were

thing, and the Hebrew, and gains some
 Greek in every instance. A man who reads
 English well and understandingly can ac-
 quire a knowledge of Latin, Greek,
 French, Italian, Spanish, and even Hebrew
 much more easily than without the prepa-
 ratory study of the English tongue.
 With it in his possession he holds the key
 to every language. Give me the American
 scholar or the English scholar who knows
 thoroughly his own language—the Celtic,
 the Norse, the Anglo-Saxon—
 and I will show you the man
 who can make his way through the intricate

in the linguistic past. You cannot speak English to-day without speaking Greek. It is a language of great power, but of small words, and when you desire to picture great and poetic things you must borrow from the Greek and its dialect—Latin. Take the vigorous words of Saxon origin and add Greek with its music

These elements are the substratum of our language. If man's opportunities will not allow him to study the classics let him take the Old and New Testament (applause). If Weeklie ever did the world a service it was the translation of the Bible into English. If you study the Old and New Testament, the "Pilgrims Progress," "Shakespeare," and Milton you are cultivating the English language in a direction that cannot be attained in any other way. I take it that when all classes of our people understand the power of the English language they

language learned by you will be of daily use in all professions or walks of life. Arithmetic has not the value of language. I am not advising any one against studying mathematics; I would have you study them; they are necessary. But if you ask me which is of the greatest practical use for answer, unhesitatingly, language.

The English language is the only one that has this quick wit of stealing from all other languages all it needs to build itself

The past, present, and future of the negro race was pictured in a vivid manner, and the influence of their presence in this country clearly shown. Mr. Langston dwelt on the composite nationality of our land and of the great mission the negro had to fulfill. How he had to contribute of his thought

Prof. Langston then eulogized in an unstinted manner the English language, its poetry, its prose, and its possibilities. Daniel Webster and Lord Brougham's

emotional powers were ordinarily commended on, and the efforts of other speakers in other tongues compared with theirs, to the manifest advantage of the English language. The lecturer closed with a masterly oratorical flight, in which the great future of the language was graphically depicted, and amid loud and prolonged applause.

Mr. Reuben Smith, Mr. H. Clay Smith, and Mr. C. C. Astwood, United States consul to San Domingo, made brief addresses, and Col. Arnold tickled the risibilities of the audience in his inimitable way. Bishop Brown, of the A. M. E. church, pronounced the benediction, and the assemblage dispersed, well pleased with the profitable evening they had enjoyed.

Studying Aliboron.

After cloudy, cold, windy, and generally disagreeable day, the sky cleared shortly after sunset last night, revealing in the western heavens a sight well worth seeing. A little beneath the moon, and apparently very near it, was a bright twinkling star of size sufficient to attract and

"It is not often, professor," said the reporter of the REPUBLICAN, called on Prof. Hall, at the naval observatory.

"It will not be for the next two years," he replied. "This star—Alphetauri, commonly called Aldebaran—is a star of the first magnitude, and is very well known. When the moon comes between us and the

as it does to night, it fixes very accurately the position of the moon. This phenomenon will take place every month for the next two years, and then the star will leave its present course, and will not be seen for ten years. The telescopes of the observatory were all drawn upon Alphetauri to night, but owing to the sky becoming obscured by

Praying for Prohibition.
Yesterday was the day of prayer for the success of the cause of prohibition in Michigan. In the call Miss Willard says: "On the 4th of April a large number of the pastors of the

state of Michigan will give a verdict in the case of 'The Home Against the Saloon.' We therefore ask every local union to observe Tuesday, March 29, as a day of special prayer for our cause in the state of Michigan." In this city the services were held at Metropolitan M. E. Church, commencing at 10 a. m. and closing at 4 p. m. The

hour services were conducted by the following: Mrs. Dr. J. P. Newman, Rev. F. D. Power, Rev. Dr. J. A. Price, Rev. Dr. H. B. Naylor, Mrs. M. E. Cohen, Mrs. R. B. Catlin, Rev. Dr. J. M. Ryley, Rev. Samuel H. Green, Rev. Chas. B. Ramsdell, Rev. Dr. Elliott, Rev. C. W. Baldwin, Rev. Dr. J. P. Newman, and Hon. W. T. Hanna.

Little Change in His Condition.
Mr. Joseph L. Bradley is still alive, but his condition is in no way improved. He holds out marvelously against the inroads of disease and weakness.

At 11 o'clock last evening Mr. Trotter was very much better, and, according to Dr. Reytburn, was in a very fair way to recover.

